

Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 /044 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2876

S E C R E T JIDDA 7277

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CHUSMTM DHAHRAN 30 OCT FROM JIDDA
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

JIDDA 7277

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SA, US

SUBJECT: JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE AND RSAF DEPLOYMENT

REF: A. USMTM 291236Z OCT 75

B. JIDDA 290935Z OCT 75

C. USMTM 290915Z OCT 75

1. THOUGH YOUR ARGUMENTS ARE SOUND WE FEEL THAT WE MUST
STILL DISAPPROVE OF BOTH USAF AND NORTHROP PARTICIPATION
IN RSAF DEPLOYMENT TO JORDAN. OUR REASONING GOES THIS
WAY:

A. ANY LEAK AND PUBLICITY OF US CITIZENS--CONTRACT
CIVILIAN OR MILITARY--SUPPORTING IN ANY WAY A MILITARY
TRAINING EXERCISE OUTSIDE OF SAUDI ARABIA--AND PARTICULARLY
ONE IN A CONFRONTATION STATE--COULD CAUSE IMMEDIATE AND
LONG-TERM DAMAGE TO US EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE SAUDI ARMED
FORCES.

B. THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY ABOUT US MILITARY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS AND OF SUCH EXERCISES, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE
SECRET

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PRESENT ATMOSPHERE IN WASHINGTON, IS AT A HIGH POINT.

NORTHROP IS ALREADY UNDER FIRE. NEWS OF ITS PERSONNEL
TAKING PART IN A JOINT EXERCISE WITH SYRIA COULD PERMAN-
ENTLY HURT ITS PROGRAM IN SAUDI ARABIA. ALSO AS YOU SAY
REF A PARA 5 THERE IS POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT TO SAUDI
ARABIA IF IT APPEARS THAT ITS AIR FORCE IS PROPPED UP
BY AMERICAN ADVISORS/CONTRACTORS.

2. WE THINK THAT YOU SHOULD INFORM RSAF OR MODA AT
HIGHEST LEVEL YOU THINK APPROPRIATE. AMBASSADOR WILL BE
SEEING DEFMIN PRINCE SULTAN WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND
WILL RAISE THE MATTER WITH HIM PERSONALLY. WE ALSO SUGGEST
A PARALLEL APPROACH TO NORTHROP.
AKINS UNQUOTE
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SECRET

NNN

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